

## ABSTRACT

1       A method for decoding a bitstream of reversible variable  
2 length codewords parses the bitstream to extract a next  
3 reversible variable length codeword, transcodes each codeword  
4 into a pseudo-variable length codeword and decodes pseudo-  
5 variable length codeword. The transcoding produces at least  
6 some pseudo-variable length codewords suitable for leading  
7 zero lookup table decoding in specially adapted hardware. The  
8 transcoding may differ for reversible variable length  
9 codewords with initial "0" and initial "1". These differing  
10 transcodings are decoded with may be decoded with a common  
11 lookup table or different sets of lookup tables.